

NEWSLETTER

HOWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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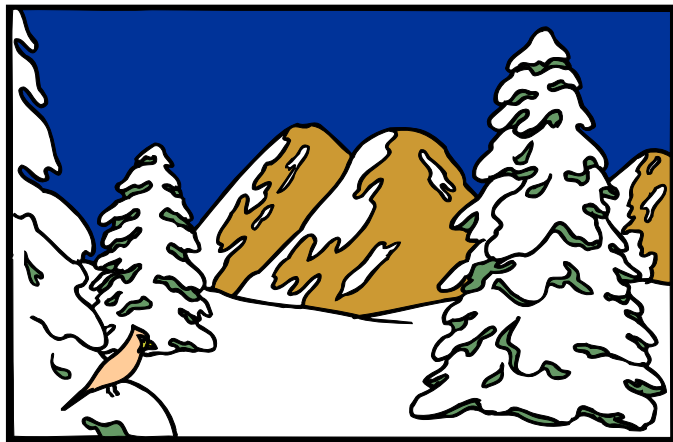
PHILIP JONES, PRESIDENT, (410) 442-2679; HOWIE FEAGA, VICE-PRESIDENT, (410) 531-1872;

MERHLYN BARNES, SECRETARY, (410) 489-4465;

TIMOTHY BARKLEY, TREASURER (301) 829-3778;

ALLAN BANDEL, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, (410) 489-7875

WEB SITE - www.howardfarmbureau.org



The Officers and Board of Directors of the Howard County Farm Bureau wish each and every one of you a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast

The next Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast is scheduled for **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2006** in the Dining Hall at the Howard County Fair Grounds. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

Our guest speaker will be local artist Shyami Codippily (a.k.a. Murphy). Shyami has recently published a beautifully painted and photographed, full-color 80-page book entitled "Farms Never To Be Forgotten." It is a well-written book that many Howard County residents will want to add to their personal libraries. Her book is based upon a collection of oil paintings of numerous disappearing Howard County farms. Shyami, a local Howard County resident, is Internationally recognized in the world of Art. She has been painting since the age of 3, and won her first International award at the age of 12.

The book presents the reader with a glimpse into Howard County's changing pastoral landscape. It includes a foreword by Delegate Gail Bates and full-color photos of the paintings and farms, as it brings to life some of the history and personal stories of the farms and their owners in Western Howard County. There is also a little lesson in art to help the reader interpret each painting, and the author's personal poetry and heartfelt feelings of each landscape. For more specifics, refer to a related article in the November, 2005 issue of the *Newsletter*.

Plan to attend this interesting program. Bring your spouse, and/or a friend. Enjoy the food, the fellowship and the lively exchange of information. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am and the program begins at 8:30 am.

Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, January 10, by calling either Charlotte Mullinix, at (410) 489-4510 or Martha Clark at (410) 531-3455. The cost of the breakfast is \$8.00 per person, payable at the door.

The formal part of the program will conclude by 9:00 a.m. We hope to see you on **January 12**.

Maryland Farm Bureau's Day-in-Annapolis Merhlyn Barnes

On **Tuesday, February 7, 2006**, the Young Farmers' and the Women's Committees will jointly sponsor our annual Day-In-Annapolis. This day of briefings and lobbying will give you the opportunity to weigh-in on important issues that may impact your farm for years to come.

The Day-In-Annapolis is timed to bring you to our state Capital at a very critical time during the 90-day session - a time when Committees are beginning to make decisions on pending bills.

The day will begin with a legislative briefing by the MFB Government Relations Staff, followed by a chance to sit in on the legislative session. A hot luncheon at the Calvert House will bring together farmers and legislators from across the state. All legislators will be invited to attend. In the past, more than half of the General Assembly has stopped by during the lunch, so let your representatives know you'd like to see them there. This is a great opportunity to talk to the Senators and Delegates from your area and to help folks from the city districts better understand your farming business.

Please join us for a very valuable day in our state's capital. Our goal is to have representation from every county in the state. We look forward to seeing you in Annapolis on **February 7, 2006!**

For more information and a registration form, contact Maryland Farm Bureau, 8930 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD 21133. Phone: (410) 922-3426; Fax: (410) 922-6871. There is a registration fee of \$20 per person which partially covers the cost of lunch. Payment should be included with your registration.

Howard County's "New" Landfill Policy
by Allan Bandel

Have you visited the Alpha Ridge Landfill recently with a load of trash on the back of your pickup and been informed at the gate that you are no longer allowed to drop off debris, free of charge, if it's from your small construction or demolition project? Well guess what! Now, you must drive across the scales and pay a \$65 per ton tipping fee. Since July 1, 2005, this rule became the policy at our county landfill. But, is this policy a fair one for Howard County residents?

I was caught by this new regulation in early November after I demolished a deteriorating set of backyard steps and chose to take the debris to the landfill. The waste consisted of several partially rotted landscape timbers and a few small odd scraps of treated lumber that were left over from building the new steps. It wasn't a very big pile. All of it fit nicely into about the back third of my pickup truck.

Upon arriving at the "guard house" where Howard County residents normally enter and previously only had to show their pass before dropping off trash or recyclable materials, the gentleman informed me that since I was bringing in construction debris, even though it was just a small amount, I could not enter this way. I would have to turn my pickup around and enter by driving across the scales. I would then be required to pay the regular tipping fee of \$65/ton, which in my case amounted to \$25.50 for the 780 pounds of debris that I had unloaded.

As a long-standing taxpaying resident of Howard County, I was completely surprised by this new landfill policy. In my humble

opinion, to charge county residents a tipping fee for bringing in debris from their small private residential demolition and/or construction projects, or perhaps from a once-a-year cleanup on their property, is totally unfair. I understand why a tipping fee is charged to contractors when, due to their business activities, they may make repeated trips to the landfill. Contractors though, can pass this cost on to their customers. But private residents cannot.

In response to my complaint, Delegate Gail Bates made an inquiry and received an email response from Mr. John O'Hara of the Department of Public Works explaining the new DPW policy. He stated that there is "a new policy in place (effective last July) by which residents are charged the per ton tip fee for waste which is from demolition or construction activity (example - remodeling a kitchen, tearing down a shed or fence, replacing flooring, etc.). Due to past abuses we (DPW) decided to more strictly enforce the County Code provisions which allow only 'personal household waste' to be accepted from residents at no charge."

I wonder if the officials who made this decision really thought completely through its possible ramifications. There probably were some compelling reasons for the change. But perhaps, in their efforts to intercept those persons who might be abusing their landfill privileges, they also began catching and penalizing some innocent private homeowners.

In the long run, I suspect that the costs to the county for implementing this new practice might ultimately increase because of the potential need for more roadside cleanup. As more residents learn that they now must pay a fee to legally dispose of their debris following small household re-modeling or clean-up jobs, some may be inclined to seek opportunities to dump their trash illegally perhaps along roadsides, on parkland, in the woods, or anywhere else that they might find convenient.

When brought to his attention, Councilman Charles Feaga immediately contacted Mr. Jim Irvin, Director, Howard County Department of Public Works regarding this problem. He asked Mr. Irvin if he would consider allowing up to 1,000 pounds of debris from private individuals to be brought into the landfill without charge. Anything in excess of that amount would be subject to a charge. This approach seems like it might be a fair solution to the problem. At least it might be worth a try.

What do you think? Is the new landfill policy a fair one, or should it be changed? Does Councilman Feaga's suggestion sound like a good alternative? It's your money.

If you believe that this "new" policy is unfair and should be modified or eliminated, communicate your thoughts and suggestions on this matter to: Mr. Jim Irvin, Director, Howard County Department of Public Works, 3430 Courthouse Drive,

Ellicott City, MD 21043. Send a copy of your suggestions to Mr. James N. Robey, County Executive, at the same address. Telephone numbers are, (410) 313-4401 for Director Irvin, (410) 313-2013 for County Executive Robey and (410) 313-2001 for Councilman Feaga.

NxLevel Agricultural Entrepreneurial Training Program
by **Ginger S. Myers**
Howard County Economic Development Authority

Interested in trying a new enterprise? Can your family farm support your family? Looking for ways to tailor your production to meet changing consumer demand? Do you still want to be your own boss? Then consider joining us for the nationally recognized NxLevel entrepreneurial training course for farmers titled, "Tilling the Soil of Opportunity".

This course for agricultural entrepreneurs is aimed at those individuals who have started or are thinking about starting an agricultural based venture that is not tied to large scale, commodity-style production. The materials are specifically designed for the individual who is searching for innovative ideas and enhanced marketing opportunities in the area of agriculture. This 10–topic unit format will be offered over four sessions includes instructor led discussions and lecture, guest speakers, networking opportunities and instructor consultations.

The program is designed to help a broad range of small to mid-sized farmers and others working in the agricultural sector. Owners and managers of new and existing businesses are encouraged to participate. Using a proven curriculum tailored to the unique needs of alternative agriculture, participants will evaluate their business ideas and complete business plans ready for a banker's review.

Class begins: Friday, January 27, 2006 and will meet for five consecutive weeks concluding on Friday, February 24, 2006. (Friday, March 3 - Snow Date). Sessions will run from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM at the Carroll County Community College, Westminster, Maryland. Lunch will be provided.

Sessions Include Take Stock of Your Resources; Basic Equipment Required: Planning and Research; The Legal Terrain; Manage From the Ground Up; Plant It, Grow It, MARKET IT!; Reap the Benefits - Marketing Strategies; Get Your Budgets In Line; Analyze Cash Flow and Financial Statements; Cultivate Your Money Resources; Harvest Your Future

Class Includes: One-on-One Assistance with NxLevel Certified Instructors Dale Johnson and Ginger Myers, farmer-educators, Maryland Cooperative Extension Educators, plus a program

binder, program modules, CD material, and handouts from guest industry specialists.

Cost: Registration fee \$175 per person (a \$350 value). Fee for second individual from the same operation is \$125.

Registration Date: Closes January 23, 2006.

Contact Information: Ginger S. Myers, Howard County Economic Development Authority, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 500, Columbia, Maryland 21046, 410-313-6500, gmyers@hceda.org.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program
EQIP Sign-Up Underway
by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**
Howard SCD

The sign up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program began on December 5 and continues to January 20th. A farm operator can sign up at any time for the program; it is just that the ranking will occur after the January 20th date. If there are sufficient funds available, there will be a second round of applications accepted through February 24th.

EQIP is the main cost-share program of the federal government for conservation practices on private working lands. People who are engaged in livestock production, forest land, crop production, pasture, and/or nurseries and irrigation may participate. The program offers up to 75% cost share on best management practices. Most practices are cost shared at 50%, but those that deal with ag waste concerns can receive as high as the 75%. Some of the best management practices that can be cost shared include: waste storage facility, fencing, closure of waste storage structures that are no longer used, forest stand improvement, water facility for providing animal drinking water, prescribed grazing, pasture planting, nutrient management and pest management.

Incentive payments are also available for up to three years for such practices as rotational grazing, enhanced nutrient management, and pest management. To receive an incentive for pest management, a producer must be following a pest management plan developed with the help of someone certified for that work. Nutrient management incentives are offered for activities that go beyond the nutrient management plan that is required by Maryland law. Examples include --- use of precision sampling of soils or measuring nitrogen in residue by use of a tissue test. For an incentive towards rotational grazing, a grazing plan must be developed.

Applications for the program will be ranked for funding based on practices that address resource concerns and environmental

quality. This year, the counties of Howard, Carroll, Frederick, Baltimore, and Harford have been grouped together for a certain amount of funding for the program. These counties taken together have historically used the largest amount of dollars available for this program in the state of Maryland.

For more information about the program or any other technical assistance you can contact the Howard Soil Conservation District at 410-489-7987.

In Defense of Dead Trees
by **Jim Myers, USDA-NRCS**
Howard SCD

Dead trees are not very appealing to most property owners or others for that matter. They are messy or leafless. They could be insect infested. They don't add aesthetic appeal. They may even threaten safety, depending on where they are located.

But the benefits that dead trees provide to wildlife are immense. Many birds and mammals use cavities in dead trees as den or nest sites. The insect-infested, deteriorating wood is a smorgasboard for many birds and mammals too. These animal species include such favorites as bluebirds, house wrens, tree swallows, squirrels, owls, wood ducks, and woodpeckers. It has been estimated that dead or decaying trees provide important habitat for 25 percent of the forest wildlife species in the northeastern United States. A dead tree can stand for decades, giving food and shelter for generations of critters.

When a dead tree poses a threat to a structure or activity area, it definitely should be taken down or at least shortened to eliminate the threat. But, as long as safety isn't a concern, let nature take its course. The tree will be worth its weight in gold to the animals that use it and even to a landowner who may enjoy watching the wildlife drawn to the tree.

2006 FUTURE HARVEST
Pre-Conference Business Skills Training
Value-Added Products: *Where am I Going to Sell All this Stuff?*

by **Ginger S. Myers**
Howard County Economic Development Authority

What's the difference between value added and value created products? Why aren't more farmers making money with value-added products? If I make it, where can I sell it?

In a 2½ hour pre-conference business development training session at the 7th Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference in Hagerstown, Maryland, January 13-14, 2006, Ginger S. Myers, Agriculture Economic Development Specialist,

Howard County Economic Development Authority, will share business development information that will increase your understanding and competitive knowledge about:

1. The pros and cons of producing a value-added product.
2. Outlets for value-added products and why direct marketing of these products often fails.
3. Maximizing your marketing tools for marketing your value "enhanced" products and services.

This presentation includes real-life examples, worksheets, and a wide variety of resources. Notebook included. For registration information contact:

Future Harvest-CASA, Phone: (410) 549-7878 , Email: fhcasa@verizon.net. Visit the Future Harvest website at www.futureharvest.org or, contact Ginger Myers at 410-313-6500 or gmyers@hceda.org.

Howard County Farm Bureau Web Site

Once again, remember to check out Howard County Farm Bureau's great new web site. Howard County Farm Bureau has gone "high tech". As announced in the last couple issues of the *Newsletter*, our organization now has a web site where you can access a variety of ag-related information. Just switch on your computer, access the world wide web, and then go to www.howardfarmbureau.org.

This information-packed web site contains detailed pages, many in full color, covering Farm Bureau History, Current Farm Bureau Policy, Member Benefits, Calendar of Events, Links to other Agriculturally Related Organizations, and even this *Newsletter*.

Go to www.howardfarmbureau.org and discover for yourself what this new web site offers. And let us know what you think. Comments are always welcome.

Tax Avoidance 101
by **Timothy S. Barkley, Sr.**
JD, CFP, CSA
Attorney at Law

Mike and Betty came to the office to discuss their estate planning. They have been happily married for over thirty years, and have both contributed significantly to their retirement plans. Their house, like seemingly every house in and around Mt. Airy, has appreciated significantly. Mike and Betty have a total estate of just about \$2 million.

Mike reports that he and Betty were not initially concerned with taxes. “We heard that the amount we can pass estate-tax-free has gone up to \$1.5 million, and will increase to \$2 million next year. But when we read this column last month, we realized that we would pay Maryland estate tax when Betty dies. It sounded like a lot of money.”

“That’s right,” their attorney replied, “when the second of you dies, the tax will be nearly one hundred thousand dollars.”

Mike pondered, “While that’s ‘only’ five percent of our estate, we don’t want to pay a hundred grand to the government. That’s not ‘chump change!’” Betty nodded concurrence.

Their attorney agreed. “Let’s look at how to make that tax go away. The problem comes when you give the survivor everything. Because each of you can pass \$1 million free of both federal and Maryland estate tax, you only pay taxes if the last one to die has more than that. If the survivor could have access to the million-dollar exemption of the first spouse to die, and use it for her needs, but didn’t actually own it, she would be provided for, but there would be no tax.”

Mike and Betty looked interested. The attorney quickly sketched two boxes on the whiteboard, labeled one “MT” – “Mike’s Trust” – and one “BT” – “Betty’s Trust.” He wrote “\$1M” in each box, to represent putting that sum in each trust.

“What if we put half of your assets in Mike’s Trust, and half in Betty’s Trust. When Mike dies – assuming he died first – then there would be \$1 million in his trust. It wouldn’t generate either federal or Maryland estate tax liability. Betty could use the money in the trust until she dies – but she wouldn’t actually own it, just control it.

“When she died, Mike’s trust wouldn’t require payment of tax, because his trust had already passed over the tax threshold. Betty’s trust also would pass to the kids tax-free, because it wasn’t over the threshold, either.”

“What happens if our estate grows,” Mike asked. “Is the state exemption increasing like the federal one?”

Their attorney shook his head. “The state legislature has already decided not to do that. It’s not likely that the Maryland exemption will grow in the future.

“Let’s say your estate grows to \$3 million. It would still be exempt from federal estate tax if we used the trusts. If we didn’t, though, the federal estate tax this year would be just over \$700,000. The Maryland estate tax without the trusts would be over \$180,000. So the total tax burden would be almost \$900,000.”

He changed the sum in the boxes to “\$1.5M.” “To avoid this, you would again put half in each trust. When Mike dies first, there would be no federal estate tax, because his trust is under the \$1.5 million federal estate tax threshold. But because his trust has more than the \$1.0 million state threshold, you would have to choose whether to pay about \$65,000 in Maryland estate tax when he died, or defer that tax until Betty died by transferring the \$500,000 excess to her upon Mike’s death.

“If you did that, there would be no Maryland estate tax on Mike’s death, but on Betty’s death there would be a Maryland estate tax of \$100,000, and a federal estate tax of \$225,000, if she died in 2005 – but if she lived into 2006 or later, there would be no federal estate tax at all until the federal exemption goes back to \$1.0 million in 2011. The estate planning community doesn’t believe that the exemption will ever be reduced to that number, but it could happen.

“Interestingly, the Maryland estate tax at Betty’s death with the \$500,000 added to her trust is less than what it would be if each of you had \$1.5 million in your trusts – \$100,000 vs. \$130,000. So it makes financial sense to leave the \$500,000 in Mike’s trust when he dies, rather than giving it to Betty, as long as she can stomach paying taxes then. Some folks think ‘the best tax is a tax paid later,’ and would rather wait to make the payment.”

Mike considers this information. “I think we want to do the tax planning. But about half our estate is in our IRAs and retirement plans from work, and three-quarters of a million is in our house. Can we put our IRAs in our trusts?”

Next time: Planning for IRAs.

Early-Style “Knobby” Snow Tires by Allan Bandel

With the return of winter weather to Howard County accompanied by often poor driving conditions, more memories of the “good ol’ days” come to mind. In those early days, when the snow began piling up on the roads, you either stayed home or you put on warm clothes, jacked up the car and put tire chains on the rear wheels (no front-wheel drive or ‘limited-slip’ differentials in those days). Depending upon conditions, this job could be quite an unpleasant task. It was not until about the mid-1940’s that many of us living in rural Howard County welcomed the good news that now there was becoming available a revolutionary new mud and snow tire designed for cars, a variety of tire that we essentially take for granted today. They were called “knobbies” in those days.

Everyone was excited about those new tires. Perhaps we expected too much from them. These first primitive mud and snow tires had tread patterns that were fairly crudely designed.

I expect that there was probably not much science involved in developing the pattern. The tread was obviously rugged. It was characterized by numerous rounded rubber “knobs” covering the tread area. Hence, it wasn’t long before these new tires were referred to as “knobbies”. Later, after more people had acquired them and as winter weather approached, we might routinely ask our friends, “Have you put your ‘knobbies’ on yet?” The theory at that time was that any kind of tread design that was more aggressive than the standard highway tread would perform better in the snow than standard tread tires, possibly even approaching the effectiveness of tire chains. Experience unfortunately, soon proved otherwise.

Experience soon demonstrated that these early tread designs were not the perfect answer for driving in snow or mud. The tread was not self-cleaning and the grooves between the “knobs” quickly filled with snow or mud once the wheel started to spin. Once these “knobby” tires lost traction, I doubt that they were much more effective than tires with regular highway treads. The “knobby” treads were also extremely noisy on a dry hard-surfaced road.

Soon after the first “knobbies” became commercially available, one of our neighbors became among the first in our area to try out a new pair of them. Probably purchased from Montgomery Ward in the mid-1940s, he had them mounted on the rear wheels of his 1939 Chevrolet sedan and decided then that he was ready for just about anything that Mother Nature might throw his way during the coming winter. But, was he ever in for a big disappointment. Although our neighbor’s experience would never stand up as a scientifically designed comparison of tire tread designs, it did suggest an early prediction of the true value of these innovative new tires.

One overcast wintry day in 1946 or 1947, my brother and I were invited to this neighbor’s house where we spent a pleasant afternoon visiting with their son who was near our ages. Sometime in the early afternoon, it began to snow heavily. About 4 or 5 o’clock, it was getting dark outside and it was also time for our friend’s dad to start his evening chores. Before going to the barn though, our friend’s mother suggested that he drive my brother and me the half mile or so to our home. By this time the snow had accumulated to perhaps 8 or 10 inches in depth. They knew that our family car was not equipped with the innovative “knobby” snow tires. Therefore, it was assumed, probably correctly, that our family car could not negotiate its way through the deep snow to bring us home. They also assumed that by this time, our dad was probably already busy in the barn doing his evening chores.

So, they insisted that we climb into the back of their snow tire-equipped car and we started the short drive toward home. Those “knobby” snow tires did seem to work quite well “plowing” through the deepening snow on Triadelphia Road. There were

no serious grades along the way and we traveled without incident right to the entrance to our farm. My brother and I were concerned that the car might get stuck in our yard if driven off the main road because there was a gentle slope down to the back yard where there was space enough to turn the car around. We therefore offered to walk the short distance to the house, something that we could have done easily. But our neighbor was so confident that with his “knobby” snow tires he could drive almost anywhere, he refused to take our protests seriously and very generously said, “Sit tight. I will drive you right to your door. The snow is no problem because we have “knobbies” on our car.”

Once at the back door to our house, my brother and I quickly scrambled out of the car and ran into the house. Then we watched through the window as our helpful neighbor tried in vain to turn his car around and drive back to the main road. His rear wheels quickly lost traction. He rocked the car back and forth trying vainly to get unstuck (and to “save face”). With every attempt to extricate his car from the deepening snow, his vehicle slid farther and farther down the hill. “Knobbies” or not, he was firmly stuck in the snow in our backyard. Embarrassed, he finally gave up in frustration and walked the half mile or so home through the snow. The mired, immobilized car stayed in our yard until the next day when Dad helped him pull it out to the main road with his tractor.

So much for the effectiveness of those early-style, “knobby-treaded” snow tires. They may have had a useful place under certain road conditions. But we soon discovered that “knobbies” did not offer a universal solution in many cases where extra traction was needed in heavy snow. They were not an overwhelmingly uncomplicated replacement for tire chains.

These innovative new tires probably offered better traction than standard highway tires of that day. We probably just expected too much of them. And to be strictly fair, we really can’t predict that a modern 21st century pair of mud and snow tires would have performed a whole lot more effectively in this particular 1940s situation. As the saying goes, “live and learn.”

Winter Extension Dairy Talk Series **Carroll County Schedule**

Once again Carroll County Extension is trying a new approach in offering you educational opportunities. Following our great success with the Winter Wednesday Series we are using a similar format for a Dairy Talk Series. Sessions will be held on Thursdays on the dates indicated below except for February 14 which is a Tuesday (*see note below) beginning at 10am and ending at noon unless interest dictates otherwise. All sessions will be held at the Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, Maryland in rooms K, A, and B.

Please call in to reserve your seat at least one full day in advance of the session – 410-386-2760. This will allow us to plan for materials as necessary. If you have any questions please let us know.

Jan 5	Mark Varner	Is Your Semen Sexy?
Jan 12	Dale Johnson	What's Next? Transitioning the Farm Business.
Jan 19	Elkin & Caffes	Milk Inspection – The reality!
Jan 26	Rich Erdman	High Culling Rates: Lost Income and Wasted Potential
Feb 2	David Shinham	USDA Voluntary Johne's Control Program
Feb 9	Rick Kohn	Milk Urea Nitrogen/Incentives
Feb 14 (Tues)	Bob Peters & Marilyn Bassford	Premise ID/National Animal ID
Feb 23	Stan Fultz	Grass-based Dairy Production

*Please note that all talks will take place on Thursdays except for week seven. There is a conflict with the annual MDIA meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16th to be held in Carroll County. Therefore, talks have been switched to Tuesday for this week.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2006

Jan 2-6	UMD Advanced IPM Short Course. 8:00 - 5:00 each day. Location: Plant Science Building, College Park, MD. Info: (301) 405-8478.
Jan 11	Pest Update for Crops & Vegetables, etc. Dr. Galen Dively, Extension Specialist, Entomology. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
Jan 11	Poultry Mortality Composting Classes. University of Maryland Easter Shore Poultry Resource Center, 11990 Strickland Drive, Princess Anne, MD *
Jan 11-13	Maryland Nursery and Trade Show (MANTS). Location: Baltimore Convention Center. Organized by MANTS Committee. Info: (410) 823-8684.
Jan 12	Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast. 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. (See details on

page 1 of this Newsletter.)*

Jan 13-14	Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference. Hagerstown, MD. Info: (410) 549-7878. www.futureharvestcasa.org .
Jan 18	Caring for the Pond, Pfiesteria, etc. Dr. Dan Terlizzi, Sea Grant Extension, Water Quality Specialist. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
Jan 18	Tri-State Hay and Pasture Conference. Garrett County. Location to be announced.*
Jan 18-19	Maryland Arborist Winter Conference. Audience: Arborist, Landscape Managers and Turfgrass Managers. Location: TurfValley Country Club, Ellicott City, MD. Info: Jeanne Brooks at (888) 638-7337. Session on January 19, 2006 counts for re-certification for category III, ponds weeds, industrial weeds and private applicators pesticide license renewal.
Jan 19	Southern Maryland Hay and Pasture Conference. Izaak Walton League Outdoor Education Center, 4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD.*
Jan 19-20	Delmarva Hay and Pasture Conference. Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington, DE. Contact: Dr. Richard Taylor, rtaylor@udel.edu , (302) 831-1383.
Jan 21	Pasture Walk - Winter Grazing of Tall Fescue. Wye Research and Education Center, Queenstown, MD. *
Jan 23-25	Silage for Dairy farms Conference. Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center. Camp Hill, PA. More information available at www.nraes.org/conference/silage2006.html *
Jan 23-27	Introduction to Greenhouse Management. 8:30 am to 4:00 pm each day. Audience: Greenhouse growers. Location: University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Office, Montgomery County Office, Derwood, MD. Info: Suzanne Klick (310) 596-9413, www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET
Jan 24	Central Maryland Grazing Conference. 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Carroll County Ag Center, Westminster, MD. Registration is \$15.00. Register at Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agriculture

- Center, Westminster, MD 21157-5700. Make checks payable to Carroll County EAC. Telephone: 1-888-326-9645.
- Jan 25 **Income Opportunities with Sheep & Goats, etc.** Ms. Susan Schoenian, MCE Area Agent, Sheep & Goats. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
- Jan 27 **Central Maryland Vegetable Growers' Conference.** Upperco, MD. *
- Jan 31 **FALCAN Winter Conference.** Location: Urbana Fire Hall, Urbana, MD. Co-organized by FALCAN and University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. Info: John Bradshaw, (301) 473-5678.
- Feb 1 **Water Recharge, Children & Owner Lots, the 25-Year Policy, etc.** Mr. Ralph Robertson, Jr. Administrator, Carroll County Ag Land Preservation Program. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
- Feb 3 **Howard County Young Farmers 1st Annual Gala Dinner & Auction.** 7 to 11pm, Cameo Room, Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD. Tickets: \$55.00 (in advance). Contact: Jen Crivelli at (443) 285-3426.
- Feb 4 **Grape Pruning Clinic.** Upper Marlboro Research and Education Center. *
- Feb 7 **Chesapeake Green Conference.** Audience: Nurseries, Garden Centers, Landscape Managers, Greenhouse Operations. Location: Maritime Institute. Info: (410) 823-8684, MNACMA@aol.com, Pesticide re-certification credits are available for this conference.
- Feb 8-Mar 1 **Beginning Farmer Series.** 6:45 - 9:15 pm. MCE - Howard County Office, Ellicott City, MD. Contact MCE @ (410) 313-2707 or or HCEDA @ (410) 313-6500.
- Feb 8 **Southern Maryland Vegetable and Fruit Meeting.** Davidsonville, MD. *
- Feb 8 **Evaluating Natural Resource Income Opportunities, Marketing Timber, Landowner Liability, Recreation.** Mr. Jonathan Kays, Regional Specialist, Natural Resources. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
- Feb 13 **Maryland Ag Forum.** Prince George's County Equestrian Center.*
- Feb 14-16 **Landscape Contractor's Association Winter Workshop.** Audience: Landscape architects, landscape designers, landscape managers, grounds management, turfgrass managers. Location: Turf Valley Country Club, Ellicott City, MD. Info: (301) 948-0810, www.lcamddcva.org. **Session on Feb. 14 counts for re-certification for category III, pond weeds, industrial weeds and private applicators pesticide license renewal.**
- Feb 15 **Wheat, Soybean & Orchardgrass Disease Update.** Dr. Arv Grybauskas, Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster, MD. Call by day before: 1-888-326-9645.
- Feb 16 **MDIA Annual Conference.** Carroll County Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD *
- Feb 22 **Pennsylvania Grazing Conference.** Grantville, PA. *
- Feb 23 **Pennsylvania Hay and Silage Conference.** Grantville, PA. *
- Date TBA **Master Nursery and Garden Center Conference.** Organized by: American Plant Food Company and Master Nursery and Garden Center Association. Location: Chevy Chase, MD. Info: (301) 770-7729.
- Feb 27-29
Mar 1-2 **Introduction to Cut Flower Production.** Audience: Commercial cut flower growers. Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Info: (301) 596-9413.
- Mar 9 **Advanced IPM Training.** Audience: Landscape and nursery managers who utilize IPM methods. Location: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD. Info: (301) 596-9413.
- Mar 9 **Howard County Agri-Business Breakfast.** 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Dining Hall, Howard County fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. *
- Mar 13 **Pasture and Field Crop IPM Workshop.** Davidsonville, MD. *

- Mar 22 **Private Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification.**
Time: 6 to 8 pm. MCE – Howard County Office,
Ellicott City, MD. Info: (410) 313-2707.
- Mar 30 **Mid-Atlantic Nutrition Conference - Equine
Session.** Holiday Inn Select, Timonium, MD *
- Apr 5 **NEW Private Pesticide Applicator TRAINING
(new applicators).** MCE – Howard County Office,
Ellicott City, MD. Info: (410) 313-2707.
- Apr 12 **NEW Private Pesticide Applicator EXAM (new
applicators).** MCE – Howard County Office,
Ellicott City, MD. Info: (410) 313-2707.
- Jun 1 **High Tunnel Production of Cut Flowers.**
Audience: Commercial cut flower growers.
Location: White House Flower farm, Brookville,
MD. Info: (301) 596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET
- Jul TBA **Deer Management for Nurseries.** Audience:
Nursery and greenhouse managers. Location: To
be determined. Info: (301) 596-9413,
www.agnr.umd.edu/IPMNET

*[NOTE] Unless otherwise indicated, contact Caragh Fitzgerald,
Maryland Cooperative Extension — Howard County, (410) 313-
2707 for more information. **Many programs require pre-
registration and/or a fee.** For programs sponsored by

Maryland Cooperative Extension, if you need special assistance
to participate, please contact the person indicated at least two
weeks in advance of the event.

Something to Think About.

A farmer was talking taxes with a business acquaintance at a
meeting. "We're a non-profit organization," he said. "We didn't
mean to be, but we are."

A working definition of a farmer? A farmer is a man who wears
out two pairs of overalls before making enough money to buy
one pair.

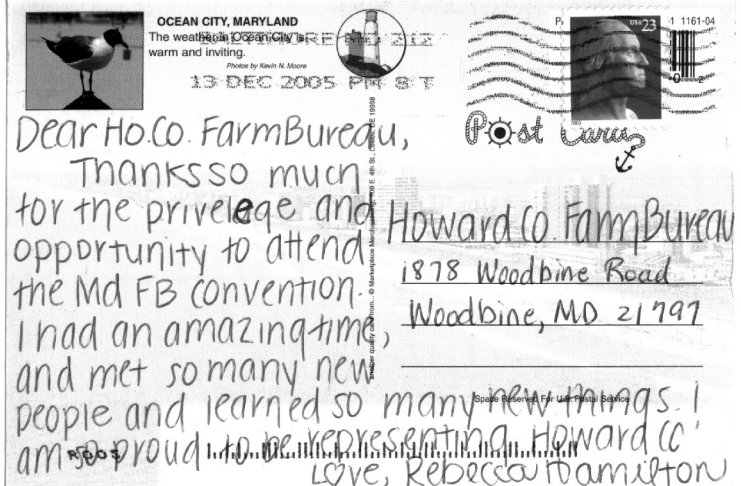
A farmer wandered into a federal building and asked, "Is this the
headquarters for the war against poverty?"
"Yes it is," replied the secretary.
"Good", the farmer said. "I've come to surrender."

And finally...

A farm expert is someone who is called in at the last minute to
share the blame.

— from: Country Chuckles, Cracks
& Knee-Slappers

Edited by Mike Lessiter



A special 'thank you' note from:
Rebecca Hamilton, Miss Maryland Farm Bureau, 2005.